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AN

EXERCISE

AGAINST

LYING.

FOR THE *USE* OF THE

CHARITY-SCHOOLS.

A NEW EDITION.

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QUESTION.

WHICH of the Ten Commandments forbids *Lying?*

Anſw. It is included in the Ninth; *Thou ſhalt not bear falſe Witneſs againſt thy Neighbour.* For in every Commandment, all the Kinds, and Degrees, and Tendencies to the Duty enjoined, or the Sin forbidden, is alſo commanded or forbidden; and therefore ought to be carefully obſerved, or ſhunned accordingly.

Queſt. But is not *Lying* expreſsly forbidden in the Moral Law?

Anſw. Yes: It is plainly and expreſsly forbidden by God himſelf, *Levit.* xix. 11. *Ye ſhall not ſteal, neither deal falſely, neither Lie one to another.*

Queſt. Can you believe that God, who is ſtiled *the God of Truth*, will have any Delight in *Liars*, or look on them as his Children?

Anſw. No: we are told, *Prov.* xii. 22. *that lying Lips are an Abomination to the Lord; but they that deal truly are his Delight.*

Queſt. What Opinion had holy *David* of *Liars*?

Anſw. The Man after God's own Heart declares, he *hates and abhors Lying*, Pſalm cxix. 163. and that *he that telleth Lies ſhall not tarry in* his *Sight*, Pſal. ci. 7. And he has noted

it,

it, as one Qualification of him that ſhall dwell in God's Tabernacle, or reſt upon his holy Hill, *that he ſpeaketh the Truth from his Heart*, Pſalm xv. 1, 2.

Queſt. Is not *Lying* alſo forbid in the New Teſtament?

Anſw. Yes; St. *Paul* expreſsly forbids us to *lie one to another*; and exhorts us, that *putting away Lying* we ſhould *ſpeak every Man Truth with his Neighbour*, Coloſ. iii. 9. and Epheſ. iv. 25.

Queſt. But may we not ſometimes tell a *Lie*, to hide or excuſe a Fault?

Anſw. No, by no Means; for that would be a greater Aggravation of the Fault, and add a heavy Guilt to it. And though we may poſſibly think to eſcape Puniſhment by telling a Lie; yet, how well ſoever we may come off for the preſent, the Guilt

of that will certainly, ſooner or later, bring a worſe Puniſhment upon us. For the Scripture aſſures us, that *he that ſpeaketh Lies ſhall not eſcape*, Prov. xix. 5. and has given us a ſad Inſtance of God's Severity againſt *Liars*, in the Story of *Ananias* and *Sapphira* his Wife, who were both ſtruck dead in their Sin, *Acts* v.

Queſt. But what if our *Parents*, or any other *Superiors*, ſhould command us to tell a *Lie*, to excuſe their Faults, or pleaſe their Humour?

Anſw. We muſt *obey* God rather than *Men*; and not ſin to pleaſe or oblige any Body, though we were to get ever ſo much by it. But, to be ſure, we can never get ſo much as we ſhall loſe by it: For by it we loſe the Love and Favour of Almighty God, which is more worth than all the World beſides. And there-

herefore as we value his Favour, or fear his Diſpleaſure, we muſt be careful never to be guilty of *Lying*, or any other known or wilful Sin; though others ſhould be ſo wicked as to perſuade us to it.

Queſt. Is not *Lying* a Breach of our Baptiſmal Vow?

Anſw. It is in a ſpecial Manner one of the *Works of the Devil*, which we promiſed to renounce in our Baptiſm. And unleſs we are willing to loſe all the Graces and Privileges we were then intitled to, and become again Children of Wrath, Enemies of God, and Heirs of eternal Damnation; we muſt renounce, avoid, and forſake them, ſo as not to do them any more.

Queſt. Who is the Father of *Lies*?

Anſw. We are told by our Saviour Himſelf; *The Devil is a Liar, and*

and the Father of it, John viii. 44. Beſides, it is generally the Beginning of all Manner of Wickedneſs: For it is one of the firſt Sins the Devil tempts Children to; and thoſe that yield to that Temptation, are commonly carried on to further Degrees of Wickedneſs, till they are brought to Deſtruction both of Soul and Body. And therefore all of us that deſire to be Children of God, and Diſciples of the Holy *Jeſus*, muſt be ſtrictly careful to ſpeak the Truth at all Times and upon all Occaſions. For *Lying* makes us like the Devil; and if we are like him in his Works, we ſhall be in great Danger of ſharing his Torments.

Queſt. Beſides the Guilt and Danger of *Lying*, is it not alſo of a moſt odious and diſgraceful Quality?

Anſw. There is no Sort of Sin meets with greater Scorn and Reproach; a *Liar* being by all accounted a Title of the greateſt Infamy and Shame. And it is obſervable, this unhappy Fate belongs to *Liars*, that they are generally diſtruſted even when they do ſpeak Truth. So that if the Fear of God does not reſtrain us, yet if we have any Regard to our own Credit or Reputation in the World, we muſt on that Account reſolve to keep clear of a Fault, which will ſo effectually ſink us in the good Opinion of all wiſe and good Men.

Queſt. Will *Liars* have any Part in the heavenly *Jeruſalem?*

Anſw. No; *Whoſoever loveth and maketh a Lie*, will be ſhut out with *Whoremongers, and Murderers, and Idolators*, Rev. xxii. 15.

Queſt.

Queſt. Where then muſt they have their Part?

Anſw. All Liars *ſhall have their Part in the Lake that burneth with Fire and Brimſtone, which is the ſecond Death*, Rev. xxi. 8. But Chriſt has promiſed *to him that overcometh*, He *will not blot out his Name out of the Book of Life*, Rev. iii. 5. And, therefore, ſince we are in ſo great Danger, and have no Power of ourſelves to help ourſelves, let us earneſtly beg Grace and Aſſiſtance from Him, who alone *is able to keep us from falling*, Jude 24. and we being *faithful unto Death, he will give us a Crown of Life*, Rev. ii. 10.

A PRAYER

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AGAINST

LYING.

O Lord God, who doſt love Truth, and doſt hate a Lie, as plainly diabolical; inſtil into our Souls an unalterable Love of Truth, that nothing may tempt us to become Liars, which thy Soul abhors. O Lord, give us Grace ever to ſpeak the Truth; and let our Hearts and Tongues ever go together. Help us to reſiſt and conquer every evil Inclination within us, and every Temptation

tation from without. Bleſs to us, we pray thee, whatſoever good Inſtructions have at any Time been given us; help us carefully to remember them, and ſeriouſly to practiſe them, that we may be ever growing in Knowledge, in Wiſdom, and in Goodneſs. Guide us by thy Holy Spirit, that we may live to thy Glory, and when we die, may attain everlaſting Life, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. *Amen.*

FINIS.

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